

Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy
Policy #: 10
Effective date: September 22, 2019
Revised: NA



All policies and procedures are approved by the Board Members of the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy and remain in effect as written until amended or revoked by the board.

10 – Policy: Public and private access to paths and properties

Purpose: To assist the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy (KCC) board members in identifying paths and land to which we promote or ensure access.

Scope: This policy applies to all KCC staff, board members and committee members when carrying out their respective roles and responsibilities.

Responsible party: Chairperson

Policy contact:

Policy

I. Introduction

The mission of the Kingsburg Coastal Conservancy (KCC) is to conserve and protect shoreline, wetlands, beaches, freshwater habitats, field and forests, and to ensure that access to these places, both on Kingsburg Peninsula and in neighbouring areas, remains available to the public forever.

The KCC's two greatest assets are its conservation of land and its reputation. Adherence to this policy will assist in ensuring that we maintain the highest level of integrity and credibility, as well as the trust of our donors, the communities in which we hold land and the governments with which we interact.

The public has a great interest in accessing coastal areas throughout Nova Scotia. Our mandate/mission states that we will "ensure access" to "shoreline, wetlands, beaches, freshwater habitats, field and forests". However, questions have arisen as to what this means and, in particular, whether this applies to land that we do not own or steward. Coastal properties have been owned by private citizens with buildings constructed on that land. This has resulted in controversy regarding traditionally-used coastal paths crossing those properties.

Our primary objective is to acquire land that we are able to conserve or which allows the public access to our coastline. In order to accomplish this objective, we require good relationships with land owners who may consider donating land to the KCC. Our need to preserve the balance between promoting access to our coastline and acquiring land to be conserved has led us to develop this policy.

II. Policy Statement

1. We will seek to acquire lands that will provide access to the coastline and ensure access, where appropriate, over those lands we currently own or steward.
2. We will not act as an advocacy group to lobby for access to areas of the coast that we do not own but are held in private hands.
3. We will consult with appropriate levels of government regarding public access along traditional coastal paths and make this information available to the public.
4. We will, if asked, act as a neutral party to facilitate discussion between the general public and private landowners regarding access over privately-owned land.

III. History

The KCC established this policy on September 22, 2019.